

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02786 271134Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2786

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRUS AT THE UN: MISSING PERSONS

REFS: (A) STATE 253012; (B) NICOSIA 1841; (C) NICOSIA 1835

1. WE CONCUR IN DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF STATUS OF EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH MIXED INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS BUT HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS AS TO WHETHER TWO SIDES ARE NEAR A MEETING OF THE MINDS. GREEK CYPRIOT INDICATION THAT THEY ARE NOW PREPARED TO ALLOW INVESTIGATION TO COVER 1963-1974 PERIOD MAY BE A STEP TOWARD SATISFYING TURKISH CYPRIOT DESIRES FOR BALANCE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IN JULY 1977 (REF C) DENKTASH TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT TURK CYPRIOT AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE WOULD REQUIRE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS TO MAKE PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEATHS OF 800 TURKS KILLED SINCE INDEPENDENCE. AT THAT TIME UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DE CUELLAR AND SENIOR POLAD GORGE BELIEVED (REF B) THAT DENKTASH MIGHT BE SATISFIED BY EXTENDING MANDATE OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE EXAMINATION OF TURKISH CYPRIOT CHARGES. AS FAR AS WE KNOW,
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 02786 271134Z

DENKTASH HAS NOT INDICATED HE WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A COMPROMISE.

2. RED CRESENT INVOLVEMENT IS EVEN STICKIER PROBLEM. AS NOTED REF B, PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS RED CROSS, MRS. STELLA SOULIOTI, IS ADAMANT THAT NO SOLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE WHICH CHANGES PRINCIPLE THAT RED CROSS HAS HAS A SINGLE

MANDATE IN CYPRUS. DENKTASH'S OBJECTION TO RED CROSS IS BASED PARTLY ON HIS POSITION THAT JOINT INVESTIGATION MUST BE PURELY A LOCAL AFFAIR (I.E., NO ICRC INVOLVEMENT) AND PARTLY ON HIS DESIRE TO INVOLVE RED CRESENT AS AN ORGANIZATION OVER WHICH HE COULD EXERCISE SOME CONTROL.

3. IN RECENT MONTHS GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE INDICATED TO US THEY BELIEVE MISSING PERSONS ISSUE IS ONE OF BEST WEAPONS IN THEIR PROPAGANDA ARSENAL AGAINST TURK CYPRIOTS. WE DOUBT THAT GOC WILL EASILY GIVE UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE.

4. SINCE IT WOULD TAKE A MEETING OF THE TWO NEGOTIATORS TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT COMMITTEE, WHICH IS NOT LIKELY BEFORE UN CONSIDERATION OF CYPRUS ISSUE, AND SINCE TURK CYPRIOTS PROBABLY ARE NOT DISPOSED TO DROP RED CRESENT REQUIREMENT, WE BELIEVE IT IS PERHAPS TOO OPTIMISTIC TO HOPE THAT UN DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE CAN BE DEFLECTED BY PRIOR AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S OCTOBER 26 REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR, REPORTED SEPTEL, WOULD APPEAR TO SUPPORT VIEW THAT GOC'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS COMMITTEE AIRING OF ISSUE AND PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION THAT WILL REDOUND TO PRESENT GOC ADMINISTRATION'S CREDIT IN FEBRUARY ELECTIONS.
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